

Ontario Caucus Priorities 2019 Platform (Ranked)

Topic	Name (Lead)	Comments
1 National Pharmacare	John Oliver	
2 Housing Affordability	Adam Vaughan	
3 Income Security for Seniors	Jean Yip	
4 Access to Affordable Childcare	Karina Gould	Increasing access to affordable, quality childcare. Right now it's too expensive, many women deciding to stop working because can't justify paying for childcare. Or for lower income women making decisions about childcare that are less safe because they can't afford to get regulated spaces.
5 Jobs: Skilled Labour	Yasmin Ratansi	Skilled labor & shortages
6 Mental health	Lloyd Longfield	Mental Health: implement measures of success, first aid for business, safe downtown
7 Environment	Lloyd Longfield	Environment: score card of interim goals, link to community energy initiative (LL) I think it is critical that tackling climate change is a top priority heading into next year's election. (NE-S)
8 Indigenous Services	Jane Philpott	Indigenous Services to the list of priorities for the platform. I hear from many Ontario MPs that this is an issue of interest to their constituents. It's important social policy - but it's also essential to the economic growth of the country.
9 Poverty Reduction	Lloyd Longfield	Poverty Reduction: cross-link to housing, jobs, mental health, food security
10 EI Reform	Adam Vaughan	
11 Small Business Support	Lloyd Longfield	Business: simplify regulations and tax
12 Digital Infrastructure—Broadband	Deb Schulte	Digital infrastructure available to all Canadians in our platform. We have so much still to do to get broadband services to remote and rural communities.
13 Global Migration & refugees	Julie Dzerowicz	
14 School Food Policy	Julie Dabrusin	
15 Disability Insurance Program	Anita Vandenberg	
16 Standing Orders	Bardish Chagger	Family friendly parliament
17 Online Hatred	Arif Virani	Online hatred, section 13 Canadian human rights
18 Sugar Sweetened Beverages Levy	Mark Holland	
19 Toronto Ravine System	Adam Vaughan	

POLICY SUBMISSIONS (Ranked)

Policy Proposal 1: National Pharmacare

Topic: Pharmacare

Theme:

Health

Prepared by: John Oliver

Date:

November 28, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Approximately 25% of Canadians must choose between putting food on the table and being able to afford prescription medicine. No Canadian should be denied access to necessary prescription medicines because of affordability.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

- Canada is the only country in the world that has a universal healthcare system that does not provide universal coverage of prescription drugs.
- The World Health Organization has declared that all nations are obligated to ensure equitable access to necessary medicines through pharmaceutical policies that work in conjunction with broader systems of universal health coverage.
- Canadians pay some of the highest drug prices in the world.
- 10% of Canadians have no health insurance.
- 1 in 4 Canadians can't afford to fill or finish a prescription.
- We know that privately insured drug plans are becoming more expensive, and decreasing in coverage.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? From the 2015 platform: "We will ... develop a pan-Canadian collaboration on health innovation, and will improve access to necessary prescription medications. We will join with provincial and territorial governments to buy drugs in bulk, reducing the cost Canadian governments pay for these drugs, and making them more affordable for Canadians."

What have we done since? What impact has this had? We joined the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance, in order to negotiate better prices for drugs along with the provinces and territories. We are currently making changes to the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board regulations to lower prices.

While this has saved some money, we are still paying some of the highest prices for drugs in the world, and Canadians still can't afford their prescriptions.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

That the Government of Canada work in collaboration with provinces and territories, healthcare providers, patients and Indigenous communities to develop a common voluntary national prescription drug formulary.

That the Government of Canada amend the Canada Health Act to include drugs prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner and dispensed outside of hospitals in accordance with a common voluntary national formulary, as part of the definition of an "insured health service" under the act.

In short, create a national formulary of drugs covered by the federal government that will provide necessary prescriptions to Canadians free of charge.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available).

There are many international models to look at. The Standing Committee on Health (HESA) looked at a number of them. The closest model that they believe could work in Canada, while achieving the goals of cost reduction, necessary medicine coverage, and cost reduction is the UK model. However the conclusion was that we need a made in Canada approach.

There are many domestic studies showing the need and potential path forward in Canada. The most prominent is "Pharmacare 2020" written by a number of prominent Canadian researchers, and endorsed by many medical professionals, interest groups, and industry. The report proposes four main themes similar to the HESA report:

- Access: universal access to necessary medicines
- Fairness: fair distribution of prescription drug costs
- Safety: safe and appropriate prescribing, and;
- Value for money: maximum health benefits per dollar spent.

Ultimately it calls for a universal pharmacare program.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? A truly universal pharmacare program would affect every Canadian.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer estimates that under a national single payer plan using Quebec's gold plated formulary we only need to spend \$20.4 billion per year. We are currently spending \$28.5 billion a year on prescription drugs. After accounting for pricing and consumption changes this represents savings of roughly \$4.2 billion.

This does not take into account further cost savings throughout the healthcare system of better health outcomes. This is just the price of drugs.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? Yes, there are a number of ways this could be paid for.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP?

Conservatives: The Conservative's will say this will cost taxpayers too much money. They appear to be hesitant to outright say that they are not in support of a pharmacare program. They will likely focus on other cost reduction measures and "support the health of Canadians" in a less expensive way.

NDP: The NDP are fully in support of a universal pharmacare program, and have run on various models over the years.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? Most stakeholders with the exception of the insurance industry and the pharmaceutical industry are in support of a universal pharmacare program.

Nurses: The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions has been calling for a federally built national prescription drug program for everyone in Canada since 1991. They are in full support of a universal pharmacare program and have been actively lobbying for one. The Canadian Nurses Association and the Canadian Nursing Students' Association are also in support.

Doctors: Most physicians will tell you on a one on one basis they want nothing more than to have their patients fill and finish their prescription. There is not a cohesive voice for the doctors however a number of groups have spoken out in support including: College of Family Physicians of Canada, Canadian Doctors for Medicare, British Columbia College of Family Physicians

Labour: The labour movement is in support of a universal program and have been actively lobbying for it. Large Unions & groups in support include:

- Canadian Labour Congress
- Unifor
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Congress of Union Retirees of Canada
- National Farmers Union
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- United Food & Commercial Workers
- United Steelworkers of Canada

Social Groups: Most social organizations are largely in support. This includes:

- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Women's Shelters Canada / Hébergement femmes Canada
- Canada Without Poverty
- Community Food Centres Canada
- Many provincial and regional groups

Seniors & Retirees: Most seniors and retirees organizations are largely in support. This includes:

- Canadian Association of Retired Persons
- Canadian Association of Retired Teachers
- Congress of Union Retirees of Canada
- Seniors' Voice
- Many provincial and regional groups

Provinces & Territories: Following the Council of the Federation in July, 2018 the Premiers released a statement saying they agree on the need for continued efforts to ensure Canadians have access to the medications that keep them healthy.

Premiers discussed national pharmacare and its potential benefits and challenges, emphasizing that a successful program requires adequate and sustained federal funding. Premiers stressed that participation by Provinces and Territories must be voluntary.

Academics: Most researchers on the topic are in favour. They have produced many papers on the topic showing the cost savings, and need for such a program. Notable researchers include:

- Steven G. Morgan, PhD, University of British Columbia
- Danielle Martin, MD, CCFP, MPP, University of Toronto
- Marc-André Gagnon, PhD, Carleton University

Pharmacists: Canadian Pharmacists are mostly in favour of some version of pharmacare. Their main concerns seems to be wanting to ensure that pharmacists aren't cut out of equation (wouldn't be the case).

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Pharmacare is the unfinished business of Canadian Medicare. It was part of the original plan for our healthcare system, but it has never materialized. Canadians have been waiting since the 1960s. It's time to finish it.

Policy Proposal 2: Housing Affordability

Topic: Housing Affordability

Theme: Affordable Home
Ownership

Prepared by: Adam Vaughan

Date: November 27, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

Help first time home buyers purchase housing

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

People trying to buy their first home have had barriers put in place by government worried about high rates of personal debt, additionally in some urban areas market forces have pushed prices beyond the reach of Canadians and in particular first time buyers

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

We promised a National Housing Strategy that would address both the need for Affordable Housing and Housing Affordability.

What have we done since? What impact has this had? While we have made substantial investments and developed policy to support people who need affordable housing, most of these initiatives have supported below market access to rental housing for people who demonstrate core housing need. At the same time we have introduced stress tests to screen out high risk mortgages. This and volatile market forces in certain urban centres has created a situation where young Canadians and in certainly young families are worried that they will never be able to own their own home.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

A combination of tax measures, changes to mortgage rules and investment tools that support and stimulate savings for first time buyers is seen as the best way forward. We have to be very careful not to project too much capital into the market all at once. This increase risk and would likely stimulate inflation. We need to avoid a situation where good money chases bad.

TAX: Increasing the capital gains of speculation to remove multiple buyers from the market, restricting foreign investment to new construction and restricting the capacity of off shore capital to enter the re-sell market could reduce inflation. This might be achieved by significantly increasing Capital Gains Tax on 2nd, 3rd and 4th properties.

Another idea that has emerged from housing town halls is a sliding scale on the Capital Gains Tax on the sale of principle residences. A 50% tax after one year of ownership, 25% after two years, 15% after 3 years, 10% after 4 years, 5% after five. The idea would be to hit speculators who quickly flip houses in hot markets. The funds could be invested back into enhanced savings programmes for first buyers

MORTGAGES: Changing stress test and mortgage rules from a one size fits all national approach to modelling formulas and approaches on a regional basis may also create relief in certain markets. This approach could mirror the regional approach to EI.

DOWN PAYMENTS: Finally a tax free housing savings account could not only boost personal savings thereby reducing rates of high household debt while also creating larger first time down payments that address mortgage risk. An incentivized savings programme would also support a culture of better personal financial management, while it would also allow first time buyers to save money. If the interest rate was tied to housing costs. Savings would keep pace with changes to the price of housing.

RENOVATIONS: One last area to explore would be no interest loans for Green renovations, secured against the purchased property to renovate and upgrade housing so that housing is not only rehabilitated but it would potentially save owners money by generating savings that flow from energy efficiency.

SUPPLY: Strong infrastructure investments, and tax rules for private market rental construction could create new capacity within the housing market and this dispel anxiety. Targeting our infrastructure spend to help municipalities drop development charges for first time buyers could directly lower entry level costs without depriving cities of needed revenue to develop new housing. Capital write-off rules are based on the long term life of the asset. A quicker write down for rental properties, similar to what Canada did in the eighties might deliver more purpose built rental housing, this could take the pressure off housing needs.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available).

Australia, New Zealand and Singapore have similar approaches to foreign capital, The US has more aggressive write down rules. Canada used to have (thru the FCM) a green renovation fund

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info.

Too many variables to calculate

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed?

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: Cons are talking about Housing prices as both a good and a bad thing, good for citizens who have invested, bad because interest rates are going up and stress tests are hurting dreams of first time buyers

NDP: Driven largely by Vancouver and Toronto their focus is on social housing but they use anxiety about housing affordability to broaden the conversation. They speak to a fear about not buying a house but the tinker with solutions. The Provincial NDP in BC have had success with a speculation tax

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to date?

Home Builders, Generation Squeeze, Mortgage professionals and municipalities. Mostly its about addressing the aspirations of Millennials and building a path that makes young people confident they can purchase a house

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Young voters and in particular young urban voters with post secondary education are a critical co-hort of Liberal voters. We need to address them directly and create a clear pathway and obvious support for first time buyers. The NDP will lean into Affordable Housing and the Tories will lean into Housing Affordability. We must do both.

Policy Proposal 3: Seniors' Income Security

Topic: Income Security

Theme: Seniors

Prepared by: Jean Yip

Date: December 7, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

Too many Canadian seniors, particularly senior women, live near or below the poverty line. Income security is important to seniors. The Government should take action to improve income security.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts with reference to sources.

Canadian Census 2016:

- 1) 5.9 million Canadians are 65 years and over.
 - a) 3.2 million are women (54.7%)
 - b) 2.7 million are men.
- 2) 4.9 million Canadians are within 10 years of retirement.
- 3) Low Income Measurement – After Tax (LIM-AT):
 - a) 14.2% of all seniors are low income;
 - b) 16.3% of women over 65 are low income
 - c) 11.9% of men over 65 are low income

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

- 1) Restore the eligibility age for OAS and GIS to 65 from 67;
- 2) Increase the GIS for single low-income seniors by 10% providing up to \$920;
- 3) Develop a Seniors' Price Index to calculate the cost of living for Seniors;
- 4) Work with Provinces, Territories and Employers to enhance the CPP/QPP;
- 5) Introduce a more flexible and accessible EI Compassionate Care Benefit;
- 6) Invest nearly \$20 billion over 10 years into social infrastructure.

What have we done since? What impact has this had?

Since 2015, we have delivered on our commitments to seniors. We have:

- 1) Restored the age eligibility to 65 in Budget 2016;
- 2) Increased GIS payments in Budget 2016;

- 3) Enhanced CPP with a historic agreement with P/T partners in June 2016;
- 4) Introduced the more flexible Compassionate Care Benefit which, along with the Family Caregiver Benefit, can provide Canadians with up to 26 weeks of EI Benefits;
- 5) Introduced the new Family Caregiver Benefit which provides Canadians with up to 15 weeks;
- 6) Invested \$21.9 billion (Budget 2017) and \$3.4 billion (Budget 2016) in social infrastructure.

We have also introduced additional measures to support seniors:

- 1) Started automatic enrolment for GIS benefits;
- 2) Invested \$6 billion over 10 years in home and palliative care;
- 3) Created the National Dementia Strategy supported by \$20 million over 5 years and \$4 million annually thereafter;
- 4) Committed \$200 million to create 6200 affordable housing spaces for seniors;
- 5) Introduced new accessibility legislation;
- 6) Introduced a new Palliative Care Framework.
- 7) Directed the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada to work with the Minister of Seniors, banks, and seniors' groups to create a code of conduct to guide banks in their delivery of services to Cdn seniors.

The effect of the Government's actions has been to:

- 1) OAS/GIS Enhancement:
 - a. 900,000 seniors now receive the enhanced GIS benefit;
 - b. Prevented 100,000 seniors from falling into poverty;
 - c. Lifted 57,000 seniors out of poverty.
- 2) CPP Enhancement
 - a. Increased the share of annual earnings that Canadians will get in retirement from one-quarter to one-third. This means an individual making \$50,000 a year over their working life will receive about \$16,000 per year in retirement instead of today's \$12,000.
 - b. Increased the point at which this new one-third replacement rate maxes out by 14 per cent, which is projected to be equal to \$82,700 in 2025. This means that, if someone is making \$80,000 a year over their working life, they will get a third of that per year in retirement from the CPP

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

- 1) **People Oriented Language: Raise the GIS/OAS Clawback threshold.**
GIS payments stop at \$18,096 despite the LIM-Before Tax being \$25,516. The current exemption for workplace income is \$3,500. This will help address ageism by valuing seniors contribution in the workplace. The Government should give Seniors greater flexibility to earn additional income, and thus meet their basic costs of living, by raising the clawback threshold to be in line with the LIM.
- 2) **People Oriented Language: Raise the mandatory RRSP to RRIF Conversion age.**

Currently, RRSPs must be converted to RRIFs when the account holder reaches 71. This forces them to withdraw money that they may not need at that time and increases their income above the clawback point. It is important to update the mandatory RRSP to RRIF conversion age to reflect higher life expectancies and the reality that many individuals remain active and working later in life. The current 71 years old conversion date does not accurately reflect the realities of many seniors across the country. By raising the age, it will allow seniors to make decisions based on what will be best for their individual situation rather than applying a blanket policy.

3) **People-Oriented Language: Raise the CPP Survivor Benefit**

For many women who are seniors today, their spouse's CPP Benefit represents a critical source of income. In part, this is because women have been disproportionately responsible for unpaid responsibilities like raising families, providing elder care, and maintaining the home. As a result, women were less likely to make CPP contributions making their spouse's benefits their only source of CPP income. At present, the CPP Survivor Benefit is set at 60% of the deceased's monthly payment. For many individuals, this means that their financial situation deteriorates dramatically after the death of their spouse leaving them unable to meet the basic costs of living. To address this issue, and to reduce the number of seniors living below the poverty line, the CPP Survivor Benefit should be increased from 60% of a spouse's benefit to 100%.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available).

- 1) In the United States, surviving spouses are eligible to collect survivor benefits at a rate ranging from 71.5% to 100% depending on the survivor's age.
- 2) In the UK a new State Pension was introduced in 2016 making a direct comparison difficult. An individual is however able to inherit some portion of their spouses benefits.
- 3) It is difficult to make the comparison to Sweden easily as they use a different system and are in the process of transitioning away from their "Widow's Pension".

3. **PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING**

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info.

In June 2017, 1.11 million people received CPP Survivor Benefits. Of this total, 896,478 (81.1%) were women. This was an increase of 76,940 (57,261 were women) individuals from 2016.

The total payment for Survivor Benefits for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was \$4.6 billion. Assuming that this represents 60% of the total potential payment, it would cost \$3.07 billion to increase the payment to 100%.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? Yes, this initiative could be delivered through the existing CPP/QPP infrastructure.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP?

Conservatives

- 1) 2015 Platform:
 - a. To give Seniors greater flexibility in managing their retirement income by reducing the minimum withdrawal requirements for RRIFs;
 - b. Increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption from \$500,000 to \$800,000 and indexing it to inflation;
 - c. Consult with Canadians on how to supplement savings options with voluntary CPP contributions.
 - d. Establish an "equivalent-to-spouse" Pension Income Credit for single and widowed seniors.
- 2) Votes: Voted (Vote 51) in favour of an amendment to C-15 deleting the entire bill including the provisions supporting Seniors.
- 3) CPC 2018 Convention Resolutions:
 - a. The Conservative Government will exempt from taxation the revenues of the retired population, received from government sources: the Canadian (or Provincial) Pension Plan, the Old Age Security and the Supplement of Revenues.

NDP

- 1) 2015 Platform:
 - a. Develop a National Alzheimer's and Dementia Strategy
 - b. Improve access to Palliative care
 - c. Expand eligibility for the Compassionate Care Benefit
 - d. Implement a National Strategy on Aging
 - e. Reverse the increase in OAS eligibility from 67 from 65
 - f. Increase the CPP/QPP
 - g. Increase the GIS
 - h. Amend Federal Bankruptcy Legislation to move pensioners and those on long term disability up the line of creditors when their employer declares bankruptcy or enters court protection.
- 2) NDP 2018 Convention Resolutions:
 - a. Be It Resolved, that the NDP urge the current federal government to change legislation so that employees' pensions are not at risk when such corporation close their doors.

Further resolved, that an NDP federal government will amend legislation to put employees of such corporations first, not last.

- b. BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The New Democratic Party of Canada present, at its earliest opportunity to the House of Commons, the following recommendations to amend the Canada Pension Plan:

THAT: The Widow/Widower Benefit once granted shall not be reduced; and

THAT: The entitlement to Canada Pension be based solely on the eligibility of the applicant and not affected by other benefits received by the applicant;

and THAT: Qualification for Widow/Widower Benefit and Canada Pension shall not be made further restrictive;

and FINALLY THAT: Any recipient of the Widow/Widower Benefit who has had this benefit reduced may, upon application, have the full value of this benefit restored.

c. Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign for:

An immediate doubling of the combined Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement minimum benefit;

An increase of 15% to the Canada Pension Plan benefit, phased in over five years;

Creation of a Federal Pension Insurance Fund to guarantee pensioners personal benefit income of up to \$2,500 per month;

Ensuring that all benefit pension programmes be indexed to the real cost of living;

Reform of the Federal Pension Insurance Board to ensure that a majority of the Board Members are working class people selected by unions and progressive grass roots community organizations;

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this?
Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) and the National Seniors Council

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Any changes to the CPP/QPP system requires the agreement of the provincial and territorial partners. **This cannot be done by the Federal Government alone.**

Policy Proposal 4: Access to Affordable Childcare

Topic: Child Care

Theme: Child Care

Prepared by: Hon. Karina Gould

Date: December 7, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, Canadian families need better access to affordable, accessible and high quality child care; current programs are unequal and have different levels of accessibility across the country.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

- Child care fees have risen faster than inflation in 82% of cities since 2014 (CCPA, 2017)
- A Toronto economic modelling study shows that 75% families cannot afford regulated child care, and 75% of Manitoba respondents say that child care is too expensive (CCPA, 2017)
- 95% of Toronto child care centres maintain a waiting list as they do not have enough spaces (CCPA, 2017)

1. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? A Liberal government will develop a child care framework that meets the needs of Canadian families, wherever they live.

What have we done since? What impact has this had? Employment and Social Development Canada worked with the provinces and territories to introduce the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework, and committed \$7.5 billion over 11 years in budget 2017 to child care. Most Canadian families are seeing little impact of this commitment, depending on the actions of the provincial governments.

Proposed new initiative: The Canada Early Education and Child Care Act will strengthen and expand on the existing framework. Operating in a similar manner of the Canada Health Act, the Act will create concrete measures and criteria for provinces to meet in their child care services in order to receive the associated federal funding. There will be a specific focus on creating new affordable spaces regardless of income and improving access to child care.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? European Union: In 2002, the EU set access targets for early childhood education and care for at least 90% of children between 3 and the mandatory school age, and 33% of children under 3 years, to be implemented by 2010 (Penn, 2017).

2. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info. Over 1 million families have children 5 years and under (Statistics Canada, 2016).

An Ontario proposal for universal child care from ages 2 ½ to 4 would cost \$2.2 billion over 3 years.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? The \$7.5 Billion over 11 years committed in Budget 2017 should be used and expanded on.

3. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: The Harper Conservatives believed child care was best left up to the families, and implemented the Universal Child Care Benefit.

NDP: The NDP's 2015 Election Platform called for the creation of 1 million child care spaces at \$15 per day.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to

- Canadian families
- Provincial and Territorial governments
- Child Care research organizations and advocacy groups
- Indigenous leadership
- Women

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)?

Lots of research shows the importance of early learning and proper child care for children, as well as the impact child care has on women being able to work. As a feminist government, this should be a key priority that will make a tangible difference in the lives of Canadian families.

Child care is primarily a provincial responsibility. Any action would need to be taken in collaboration with the provincial and territorial governments. Quebec will likely support the principle but not adhere to the agreement.

Policy Proposal 5:

Lack of Skilled Labour

Theme: Skilled labor & Shortages

Topic: Jobs

Date: December 5, 2018

Prepared by:

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity:

The lack of skilled workers and labour shortage in Canada

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

Some facts according to Statistics Canada as of December 7, 2018:

- The unemployment rate is now 4.6 % lowest in 42 yrs the lowest since 1976.
- The government added 94,100 new jobs last month including a gain of 89,900 full-time positions.
- Compared to 12 months earlier, employment was up 1.2 per cent following a net increase of 218,800 jobs. The addition of 227,400 full-time positions offset a small decrease in part-time work.
- In the 12 months to November, employment grew by 219,000 or 1.2%, reflecting gains in full-time work (+227,000 or +1.5%).

Facts from jobbank.ca

- There are 88,030 jobs available in Canada for skilled and unskilled workers as of December 5, 2018.

- Here is the breakdown of the number of full-time jobs available by province from December 5, 2018

○ N.L: 414	○ ON: 11,374	○ YT: 110
○ PE: 225	○ MB: 946	○ NT: 64
○ NS: 887	○ SK: 708	○ NU: 15
○ NB: 1,089	○ AB: 7,172	
○ QC: 35,527	○ BC: 14,088	

- From indeed there are 84,699 new jobs posted in the last 7 days

- From Monster.ca as of December 5, 2018

- Hospitality and Travel Industry 15,570 jobs available
- Engineering, 15,226 jobs available
- IT 8,522 jobs available
- Skilled Trades/Construction 618 jobs available
- Health, 12,034 jobs available
- Skilled Trades 1,844 jobs available
- Medical 7,877 jobs available

- From Workopolis as of December 5, 2018

- Hospitality 6,003 jobs available
- Engineering 28,234 jobs available
- IT 4,338 jobs available
- Skilled trades/construction: 23,802
- Health: 62,628 jobs available
- Skilled trades: 2,573 jobs available
- Medical 30,167 jobs available

Hospitality and tourism – from "Labour Challenges Threaten Growth Prospects of the Accommodation Industry"

- Projected that the number of jobs required to meet the needs will grow from 199,000 in 2015 to 265,000 in 2035 an increase of 33%
- It is projected that the discrepancy between labour demand and supply will worsen over time.

- In an online survey, 66% of business respondents said that labour issues currently represent a significant obstacle for businesses.
- Specifically occupations projected to experience the largest labour short fall in 2035 over the long term are hotel front desk clerks followed by light duty cleaners; janitors, caretakers and building superintendents; program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness; food counter attendants and kitchen helpers
- On a province by province basis where supply will fall short of demand by 2035 ordered from biggest to least
 - ON: 9,577
 - BC: 6,531
 - QC: 4,852
 - AB: 2,988
 - SK: 1,647
 - MN: 1,514
 - NS: 871
 - NB: 702
 - NL: 534
 - PE: 305

What are the challenges?

- The challenges associated with labour shortfalls are the inability to attract, retain and promote an adequate level of qualified employees
- Perceived as low profile work these positions appear less attractive to our Canadian workforce
- Perception that entry level hotel jobs don't result in meaningful progression in the business
- Seasonal nature of work is not attractive to Canadians wanting full time employment
- Perception that other industries pay more
- Perception that the nature of positions results in little flexibility

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

- We will help Canadians get the training they need to find and keep good jobs.
- Need more opportunities to improve their skills and upgrade their credentials.
- We will make it easier for adults to access training programs by increasing investment in skills training.
- To help those receiving Employment Insurance get the training they need to rejoin the workforce, we will invest \$500 million more each year in provincial and territorial Labour Market Development Agreements.
- To help those who do not qualify for Employment Insurance or are not currently employed, we will invest an additional \$200 million in training programs led by the provinces and territories.
- We will also invest \$50 million to renew and expand funding to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy
- Provide \$25 million each year for training facilities, delivered in partnership with labour unions.
- We will work with employers and workers to determine an appropriate apprenticeship ratio for all federal infrastructure projects.
- Our total investment of an additional \$775 million per year for job and skills training will help Canadians get the training they need to find and keep good jobs.
- We will kick-start investment in innovation to grow our economy and create good, middle class jobs.
- To get our economy growing again, we need to immediately invest in helping our businesses, entrepreneurs, manufacturing to become more innovative, competitive, and successful.
- Over the next three years, we will:
 - Invest \$200 million each year in a new Innovation Agenda to significantly expand support for incubators and accelerators, as well as the emerging national network for business innovation and cluster support;
 - Invest an additional \$100 million each year in the Industrial Research Assistance Program, which has a proven track record of helping small- and medium-sized businesses to innovate and become world leaders.

What have we done since? What impact has this had?

A. Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) –

- The Program helps employers in the Atlantic region to hire job candidates who aren't Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The candidates fill jobs the employers have had trouble filling locally. If the candidate and employer meet the requirements, the candidate gets permanent resident status in Canada. The Atlantic Immigration Pilot is employer driven.
- Unlike most immigration programs that begin with someone applying to immigrate to Canada in the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, Atlantic employers (such as businesses, not-for-profits, governments) apply to a province

to become designated under the pilot. This means they can offer jobs to skilled foreign workers and recent international graduates. These jobs must be in the province where the employer is designated.

- Canada Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen has announced 500 extra spaces for the Atlantic Immigration Pilot for 2018.
- Following the increase, the AIP now has a 2018 allocation of 2,500 spaces for new immigrants spread across Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
- The increase comes after 1,800 skilled workers and international graduates were endorsed for the program this year, against an annual target of 2,000.
- Introduced in 2017, the federal government and its provincial government partners aim to welcome more than 7,000 newcomers and their families to the Atlantic Canada region by 2020 through the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program.

B. New IRCC Pilot Project – From the Hoteliers Association

- Hoteliers have gone to great lengths with recruitment efforts to hire Canadians first, including a recent partnership with Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to mobilize at least 1,300 refugees and new Canadians into available hotel jobs.
- June 20, 2018 Hoteliers Association Canada (HAC), in partnership with Tourism HR Canada (THRC), joined the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, and the Honourable Bardish Chagger, to announce the Employing Newcomers in Canadian Hotels Pilot Project (now known as "Destination Employment").
- With nearly \$7 million in funding, THRC and HAC, alongside other provincial and local labour market partners, will work together to employ newcomers in sustainable, long-term hotel jobs.
- The project will start in five selected regions to demonstrate success, then scaled up to include additional urban and rural centers. The five regions are: Yukon; Alberta; Saskatchewan; Ontario; and Atlantic Canada.
- The first round of employees is expected to be placed in the fall/winter of 2018.
- This project is an important one for both government and the accommodations sector because it provides a labour solution to a long-standing shortage, while offering new Canadians meaningful, stable employment.

C. During our government term – information from the Fall Economic Statement

- Created 550,000 new jobs
- The unemployment rate is down to 5.6% lowest in 40 years -Stats Canada as of December 7, 2018
- Employment gains by women are strong with the pace of job gains more than doubling in recent periods
- Over the last few years the share of working age Canadians employed has increased for new immigrants, of reserve Indigenous Peoples, single mothers, youth and individuals with lower educational attainment

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year?

According to Statistic Canada there are currently 1.1 million people unemployed. Our strategy would enable these people to find employment. It will cost the government approximately \$7 million if we used the IRRC model. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the numbers for the Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) at this time.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

Conservatives

Conservative Party proposed certain measures to help new citizens acclimate. A policy for settlement support, including language instruction and building job search skills, will help immigrants become more comfortable in the country, according to CIC News. The party also wants to continue the creation of pilot projects which will not only attract new workers to Canada but will address the skill shortages in certain regions and economic sectors.

Additionally, the party hopes to streamline the transition from temporary to permanent worker for immigrants, as well as allow temporary employees to receive the same minimal employment protections as Canadian workers. Furthermore, Conservatives hope to work with professional Canadian bodies and trade associations to prequalify internationally skilled workers for certain jobs. The party also hopes to develop integration programs for introducing foreign individuals into the nation's workforce and create the criteria for obtaining Canadian professional status.

NDP

The NDP proposed an annual immigration level of 1 percent of the Canadian population to meet the needs of the workforce. To support immigrants' desire to stay in the country, the party is making family reunification a priority by allowing temporary foreign workers to bring immediate family members to Canada with them.

In addition to providing English and French language training, the NDP proposed collaboration with provinces and territories to accept foreign diplomas and professional credentials. This process would include a detailed model for the recognition and assessment of these accreditations. The party also hopes to develop a system for the inspection of the workforce to ensure that foreign workers aren't being exploited or subjected to poor working conditions, CIC News reported. Lastly, the NDP wants to guarantee that all migrant workers are covered by appropriate employee legislation within the province or territory of their employment.

The Star has learned that Jagmeet Singh will push for a \$15 per hour minimum wage for workers under federal jurisdiction. He also wants to ban unpaid internships, including when they're part of academic programs, and force companies to hire temporary employees after they've worked for six months.

Developing "Made in Canada" products through secondary processing of our natural resources, thereby creating skilled, value-added jobs

Targeting tax credits and incentives towards rewarding job creation and encouraging job-supporting investment. Strengthening the Investment Canada Act and ensuring that foreign investment delivers and maintains quality jobs in Canada.

Policy Proposal 6: Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health

Theme: health

Prepared by: Lloyd Longfield

Date: November 27th, 2018

- 1) **Problem Identification:** Mental Health – Improving outcomes for Canadians facing mental health challenges such as stress, depression, suicide tendencies, and addictions.
- 2) **Approach and Impact:** Work with Ministerial Advisory Council on Mental Health, and with provinces and territories to establish common indicators and review bilateral agreements to see where federal government can support service delivery. Focus on prevention of mental illness and suicide, including links to addictions, trauma, and adverse childhood effects.

Work through Canadian Mental Health Association, Mental Health Commission of Canada, health service agencies, and community health programs as well as business associations and businesses directly. Provide opportunities for Pan Canadian discussions on funding, framework, strategies, and results, including how many Canadians are getting better as a result of treatment. Develop programs for mental health in the workplace, counselling benefits, support staff and services.

- 3) **Preliminary Data and Costing:** Mental illness indirectly affects all Canadians at some time through a family member, friend or colleague. In any given year, 1 in 5 people in Canada will personally experience a mental health problem or illness. Mental illness affects people of all ages, education, income levels, and cultures. Approximately 8% of adults will experience major depression at some time in their lives. About 1% of Canadians will experience bipolar disorder (or "manic depression").

The economic cost of mental illnesses in Canada for the health care system was estimated to be at least \$7.9 billion in 1998 – \$4.7 billion in care, and \$3.2 billion in disability and early death. An additional \$6.3 billion was spent on uninsured mental health services and time off work for depression and distress that was not treated by the health care system. In 1999, 3.8% of all admissions in general hospitals (1.5 million hospital days) were due to anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, major depression, personality disorders, eating disorders and suicidal behavior. Sources: The Report on Mental Illness in Canada, October 2002. EBIC 1998 (Health Canada 2002), Stephens et al., 2001

There is a strong connection between mental health and addictions, as well as mental health and homelessness. Adverse Childhood Effects provide complexity and limits to treatment and should be considered in any strategy going forward.

- 4) **Political Contrast and Stakeholder Awareness:** Conservatives and NDP look to balance budgets by reducing services and cutting costs for social programs, relying on provinces and territories to provide services. Stakeholders CMHA, MHCC, social support organizations, health care providers.

Policy Proposal 7: Environment

Topic: GHG Emission Reduction

Theme: Environment

Prepared by: Lloyd Longfield

Date: November 27th, 2018

1. **Problem Identification: Environment** – connect price on pollution with COP21 goals, including 2020 implementation goals and 2030 measurements of progress
2. **Approach and Impact:** The first term results are the achieving of a national price on pollution, in collaboration with partnering provinces and territories, and as a federal program in non-participating jurisdictions. Incentive programs for business, institutional, and residential greenhouse gas reduction projects need to be clarified and promoted. Implement programs and measurements to achieve 2030 goals by province and sector, including work with the Standing Committee for the Environment, and report progress back to Parliament annually.
3. **Preliminary Data and Costing:** We need to establish preliminary data by province and territory, as well as by industrial sector, emission source, or conservation opportunities. Costing and distribution of dividends or cash incentives needs to be clarified and communicated.
4. **Political Contrast and Stakeholder Awareness:** Conservatives have no plan. Liberals have a plan but no data, and NDP protest but no plan either.

Stakeholders: municipal and provincial utilities, businesses, water treatment plants, not for profit advocacy groups, international agencies (UN SDG)

Policy proposal 8: Indigenous Services Jane Philpott

Topic: Investing in Housing On-Reserve Theme: Indigenous Peoples

Prepared by: Jane Philpott

Date: December 12, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

The federal government must address the legacy of entrenched underfunding on housing for Indigenous peoples, so that this large segment of our population will have the opportunity to fully participate in and contribute to our economy and our society.

The ability to gain adequate housing can impact family health; education and early childhood development; employment; mental and physical wellness of families; care for the elderly; the prevention of homelessness, family violence and crime. No government to date has fully addressed the ever-growing housing gap that results in overcrowding, unhealthy living conditions, and homelessness for Indigenous Peoples.

What evidence substantiates this concern? The federal government is engaging with the Assembly of First Nations on a housing strategy. Key findings indicate that First Nations need 41,300 new housing units and 44,230 major housing renovations – over \$9 bn investments needed immediately (study as of Dec 2016).

There are numerous reasons for this growing housing gap on reserve:

- Lack of long-term planning, proposal-based, fiscal year-to-year driven projects
- Insufficient and fluctuating funding levels
- Heavy compliance required including top-down reporting burdens and lack of flexibility
- Limited training and certification and income for community members in housing builds
- Lack of resources for operations maintenance
- Lack of innovation and new green technologies
- Insufficient capital and lack of flexibility in financing
- Lack of capacity and qualified staff and labor
- No structure to share best practices
- Lack of aggregation for governance, data collection, research and regional approaches
- Difficulty in rent collection and enforcing new policies

A First Nations-led community approach to housing must reflect capacity gaps, community planning, long-term approaches to construction and repair, financing, operations and management, and governance. This must be based on data, with Indigenous approaches to governance, financing, new models based on today's needs and issues, and must be co-developed with partners.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

The Liberal Party of Canada committed to renewing the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples stating: "this is both the right thing to do and a sure path to economic growth. We will immediately re-engage in a renewed nation-to-nation process with Indigenous Peoples to make progress on the issue most important to First Nations, the Metis Nation, and Inuit communities – issues like housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education."

What have we done since? What impact has this had? Budget 2016 invested \$554.3 million over two years to address urgent housing needs on reserve. This was a first step to develop an effective long-term approach as part of a broader National Housing Framework.

Since then, Budget 2018 took further steps by investing in distinction-based housing strategies: This funding was provided through a combination of Budget 2017 and Budget 2018 monies:

- First Nations on-reserve \$600 million over three years
- Inuit received \$400 million over 10 years for a specific housing strategy
- The Metis Nation received \$500 million over 10 years for a specific housing strategy

However, the need is so great for First Nations on-reserve that more investment is essential.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work.

The Government of Canada will invest \$3 billion over 7 years in First Nations housing on-reserve to complete its commitment to Canada's ten-year National Housing Strategy.

This investment in housing will provide a new generation of families with safe homes in which to live. These families and children will become the backbone of Canada's strong economic growth in the future.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas from domestic or international comparators?

The government is currently engaged in a number of activities to close the gap in First Nations housing:

- Canada is set to launch the Building Homes and Communities Innovation Initiative to provide grants to successful housing projects based on innovation.
- CMHC recently announced a call for nominations for the First Nations Market Housing Fund Board of Directors to help reform the institution.
- The government has funded the Assembly of First Nations to undertake a data-gathering survey to better determine the specific housing needs of each First Nation community.
- The government continues to engage with the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure with a goal of completing the ten-year National Housing Strategy.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from? Over 330,000 First Nations peoples live on-reserve. There are existing programs to support housing but they are insufficiently resourced and require substantial policy reform.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

Conservatives: Their 2015 platform did not address Indigenous housing.

NDP: The NDP platform committed to improve "infrastructure in Indigenous communities such as housing, schools, and clean water and sanitation facilities with \$375 million of new investments over four years."

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Investment in on-reserve housing will have the impact of increasing overall social and economic outcomes amongst a youthful growing population. In Ontario, there are a number of ridings that are demonstrating a strong influence of Indigenous voters. Increased funding for First Nations housing to support Indigenous families and children will lead to a more prosperous Ontario and Canada.

Policy Proposal 9: Poverty Reduction

Topic: Poverty reduction

Theme: Social Policy

Prepared by: Lloyd Longfield

Date: November 27th, 2018

2. **Problem Identification: Poverty Reduction** – cross link to housing, jobs, mental health, food security providing fairness and opportunity for the middle class and reversing the trend of the growing gap between the top 1% and those struggling to join the middle class. The underlying issue is fairness.
3. **Approach and Impact:** The National Advisory Council on Poverty has been created with 17 diverse voices of experience to identify the barriers to success and potential linkages between people struggling and not for profit organizations, businesses, and levels of government. Issues discussed to include seniors, children, people with disabilities, and women. The National Advisory Council should report back to Parliament annually to hold the government accountable.
4. **Preliminary Data and Costing:** Defining poverty using Statistics Canada measurements of low income cutoff (LICO), low income measure (LIM), and market basket measure (MBM). In 2015 the MBM of poverty was 12.1% in Canada (4,477,000 people), with a goal of 10% by 2020 (we are currently at 10.4%) and 6% by 2030 including urban, rural, and remote Canadians. By 2020 we would have taken 777,000 people out of poverty and by 2030 we would have taken 2,238,000 people out of poverty. We need to segregate by women, youth, seniors, immigrants and other at risk groups.
There are currently 3 million Canadians in poverty including 1.9 million families.

The National Advisory Council on Poverty is aligning Canada's goals with UN Sustainable Development Goals. The National Housing Strategy has committed \$40b over 10 years, Mental Health investment of \$5b over 10 years, social innovation investment of \$750m and Food Security as a part of the National Food Strategy is still to be budgeted. The lost cost to the economy and supporting social programs is multiples of the investments to reduce poverty.

5. **Political Contrast and Stakeholder Awareness:** Conservatives and NDP look to balance budgets by reducing services and cutting costs for social programs.

Stakeholders: municipal, provincial and territorial governments, health care providers, social assistance agencies, not for profit social advocacy groups, immigrant communities.

Policy Proposal 10: EI Reform

Topic: EI Reform

Theme:

Employment

Prepared by: Adam Vaughan

Date:

December 6th, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Employment Insurance only reaches 60% of the workers who pay into it. For people in high employment areas especially in sectors defined as areas with precarious work the numbers are even lower. Expanding benefits and eligibility must happen to address this gap and give more Canadians access to the benefits that they pay for.

What evidence substantiates this concern? HUMA did a study which identified key gaps. The Canadian Labour Congress has also highlighted EI as a programme requiring a complete overhaul. Several private members bills have tried to fix parts of the programme as they pertain to Maternity benefits, episodic disability and poverty

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? We promised comprehensive reforms in 2015 but so far have only made modest but effective changes to the programme

What have we done since? What impact has this had? Working while on benefit, faster enrolment, and extended more flexible and inclusive maternity benefits have all been achieved in this mandate, the larger more challenging issues such as the minimum weeks needed to qualify, and the issue of Seasonal Workers remain a problem.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

We need to make the programme easier to qualify for and recognize and accommodate precarious work. We should also find a way to get more self employed workers engaged in the programme. Other minor reforms (see above notes regarding HUMA studies) also need to be included

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info. Department has these figures

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? No

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: Have asked for minor tweaks, likely to argue it constitutes and increase in payroll tax

NDP: Will likely propose similar policy and complain we haven't acted fast enough

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to date? Cdn Labour Congress, Anti-Poverty groups, Generation Squeeze, Maytree Foundation, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Key industry sectors

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Strong support in Quebec and Atlantic Canada in particular for "Seasonal Workers"

Streamline regulatory processes, reduce red tape, and review and simplify the Income Tax Act to stimulate investment in business.

Improve labour market assessment process, and provide support for regional workforce employment councils. Target skills matching with employers, including youth, women, indigenous people, and people with disabilities working with the Standing Committee for Industry, Science, and Technology.

Report annual growth in sales and exports annually to Parliament.

3. **Preliminary Data and Costing:** Total in 2015 1,167,978 businesses in Canada of which, Small: 1,143,630 (97.9%), Medium: 21,415 (1.8%), Large: 2,933 (0.3%) Source: Statistics Canada, *Business Register*, December 2015. Over 550,000 new full time jobs have been created since 2015. Growth targets to be established. The Export Diversification Strategy will directly support Canadian businesses to grow their overseas sales by 50% by 2025.

Particular impacts on rural Canada and in downtown business improvement areas.

4. **Political Contrast and Stakeholder Awareness:** Conservatives and NDP look to balance budgets by reducing services and cutting costs for business programs. NDP does not support trade agreements. Conservatives support high net worth.

Stakeholders: municipal, provincial and territorial governments, business support organizations such as innovation centres, commercialization centres, accelerators, Chambers of Commerce, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters

Policy Proposal 12: Digital Infrastructure—Broadband

Topic: Broadband

Theme: Rural & remote communities

Prepared by: Deb Schulte

Date: December 8th, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem/opportunity we're trying to solve? In too many rural and remote communities there is inadequate access to Broadband which is hampering economic development, health care, education and seniors supports.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Recent analysis of broadband access across Canada identified this to be a problem requiring many billions of dollars to solve. In Budget 2016 money was provided for a Connect to Innovate program that was significantly over subscribed.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform? Nothing!

What have we done since? What impact has this had? Invested \$500 Million in the Connect-to-Innovate Program (Currently Oversubscribed)

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem.

We are requesting that Connect-to-Innovate be renewed with a \$200 Million per year, over 5 years, that will continue to leverage other partners to connect communities with what is now deemed an essential service. Key changes need to be made to the program to allow for last mile and near urban areas.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Hundreds of thousands of people are underserved in our rural and remote communities with highspeed internet which is now becoming an essential service. Our medical services, agricultural areas, small business, students and seniors are being underserved when they cannot get access to high speed (and in many cases, no) internet.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? Connect-to-Innovate Program

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Cons and NDP are calling Broadband an essential service.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc)? Very important to our rural and remote communities, especially in the North and Indigenous Communities

Policy Proposal 13: Global Migration & refugees | Julie Dzerowicz

Topic: Immigration and Refugees

Theme:

Prepared by:

Julie

Dzerowicz

Date: 7 December

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5. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

It has become clear based on public feedback and opposition rhetoric that immigration and the processing of refugees will be an issue in the 2019 election. As such, we require a very clear idea about what our position is and how to address issues of immigration and broader issues of global migration.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

As per the feedback provided during meetings of the National Caucus on Immigration and Refugees, immigration is the number one topic that MPs hear from constituents about at the door. The CPC has also relied heavily on anti-immigration rhetoric, as seen in the debate surrounding the UN Global Compact for Migration.

There are currently 258 million people worldwide who are on the move due to internal conflict, violent regimes, and the impact of climate change. As these numbers continue to increase, we require a comprehensive plan to deal with the influx of asylum seekers to Canada.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

Pages 62-63 LPC Platform:

"We will make it easier for immigrants to build successful lives in Canada, and contribute to the economic success of all Canadians. Immigration has always been an important part of Canada's economic growth, but over the past decade, Stephen Harper has turned his back on welcoming those who want to contribute to our country's success. We will take immediate steps to reopen Canada's doors, and will make reuniting families a top priority. We will immediately double the number of applications allowed for parents and grandparents, to 10,000 each year. We will also nearly double the budget for processing family class sponsorship. Wait times will come down – which currently average almost four years for parent and grandparent applications. We will provide more opportunities for applicants who have Canadian siblings by giving additional points under the Express Entry system, and we will restore the maximum age for dependents to 22 from 19, to allow more Canadians to bring their children to Canada. We will also grant immediate permanent residency to new spouses entering Canada, eliminating the two-year waiting period. We will give international students and temporary residents credit for time already spent in Canada. We will make it easier for international students and other temporary residents to become Canadian citizens by restoring the residency time credit. We will also make changes to the Canadian Experience Class, to reduce the barriers to immigration imposed on international students.

We will make it more affordable for Canadian workers to send money overseas.

We will work with provincial and territorial governments to better regulate the remittance industry, so that residents of Canada who send money overseas to help family members are not gouged by high fees. This will include working with Canada's banks to ensure low-cost access to transfer services, exploring ways for Canada Post to offer remittance services, and imposing tough new penalties on those who abuse the system and take advantage of vulnerable newcomers to Canada.

We will make it easier and more affordable to hire caregivers.

Canadian families looking for caregivers to help family members with physical or mental disabilities must pay a \$1,000 Labour Market Impact Assessment fee. We will eliminate that fee. We will also work with the provinces and territories to develop a system of regulated companies to hire caregivers on behalf of families. This will make it simpler for families to hire caregivers, and protect caregivers by allowing them to change employers in the case of bad relations or abuse."

Refugees: We will restore Canada's reputation and help more people in need through a program that is safe, secure, and humane. Canada once welcomed refugees openly, but that proud history has faded after a decade of mismanagement under Stephen Harper. We will renew and expand our commitment to helping resettle more refugees, and deliver a refugee program that is safe, secure, and humane. We will:

- fully restore the Interim Federal Health Program that provides limited and temporary health benefits to refugees and refugee claimants;
- establish an expert human rights panel to determine designated countries of origin, and provide a right to appeal refugee decisions for citizens from these countries; and
- appoint individuals with appropriate subject-matter expertise to Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board.

What have we done since? What impact has this had?

- Supporting newcomer women in building job skills, overcoming language challenges, and accessing affordable child care through a \$32 million investment over 3 years.
- Eliminated Conditional Permanent Residency, which required that sponsored partners live with their sponsors for two years in order to maintain their status in Canada. This program put vulnerable spouses at risk.
- Committed to increase the number of vulnerable refugee women and girls to be resettled in Canada as government-assisted refugees.
- Helping internationally trained new Canadians secure good, well-paying jobs faster with the Foreign Credentials Recognition Program. The loans pilot project of this program has granted over 1,800 new Canadians with micro-loans, averaging \$7,000 each.
- Enabling companies to attract top talent with the new Global Skills Strategy, which shortens the work permit process to two weeks for some high-skilled workers.
- Creating a pathway to permanent residence for cutting-edge entrepreneurs launching a start-up company in Canada with the now permanent Start-up Visa Program. As of July 2017, 117 applicants representing 68 new companies launched in Canada have been approved for permanent residence.

- Helping new workers, such as young Canadians and recent immigrants, who are looking for work return to school to get the training they need to find a new job—without fear of losing the EI benefits they need to support themselves and their families.
- Eliminated the cumulative duration rule or the “four-in, four-out” rule, which limited how long temporary foreign workers could stay in Canada, so that temporary workers can now extend their permits for longer than four years.
- Improved the processing times for citizenship from 24 months to less than 12 months.
- Protecting vulnerable sponsored spouses or partners—often women—from having to stay in abusive relationships by removing the requirement for sponsored spouses or partners to live with their sponsor for two years in order to keep their permanent status.
- Ensured that all Canadians—including dual citizens—are treated equally once again by passing Bill C-6, a law that repeals unfair provisions in the Citizenship Act that created two-tiered citizenship.
- Reunited more families, increasing the number of spouses, partners, and dependent children to be admitted by 12,000 and shortened processing times for spousal applications from 26 to 12 months in 2016.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

A working group/committee should be should struck immediately to begin brainstorming comprehensive policies to improve our immigration system and how to better handle the influx of asylum claimants we are currently experiencing.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or intl comparators? Yet to be determined.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

*How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info. **To Be Determined***

*Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? **To Be Determined***

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: The CPC has released their full immigration plan and conducted several news releases on the subject: see: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/conservative-party-immigration-1.4794296>

NDP: The NDP has taken a firm stance on the rights of immigrants in Canada and on the temporary foreign worker system. Primarily, the NDP has expressed that family reunification should be the main priority the Canadian Immigration Policy. The party wants to simplify the issuing of visitor's visas for people coming to visit relatives, drop immigrant application and landing fees, and allow Canadians a one-time opportunity to sponsor a relative who is not a member of the family class to come to Canada. In addition, the NDP wants to create a fast-track family class sponsorship for applicants from areas of disaster.

Policy Proposal 14: National School Food Program

Topic: National School Food Program

Theme: Health

Prepared by: MP Julie Dabrusin

Date: 07/12/2018

1) PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

- In order to aid children in developing food and nutrition habits they need to lead healthy lives and succeed at school, we must implement an adequately funded national cost-shared universal healthy school food program.
- Canada is the only country in the G7 without a National Food Plan
- Canada is one of the only Organizations for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries without one, and Canadian children are not provided consistent access to healthy food at school, where they spend more than half their waking hours.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

School food programs improve children's nutrition, long-term health, school performance, attendance, social cohesion and contribute to local economies, as recognized by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (1997);

2) APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)?

Nothing specific, however:

On healthier eating for children:

We will do our part to help Canadian children live healthier lives, with less exposure to known health risks.

To help families make better food choices, we will:

- introduce new restrictions on the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children, similar to those now in place in Quebec;
- bring in tougher regulations to eliminate trans fats, similar to those in the U.S., and to reduce salt in processed foods; and
- improve food labels to give more information on added sugars and artificial dyes in processed foods.

What have we done since? What impact has this had?

- A report called "What We Heard" was done by "A Food Policy For Canada"

- During consultations many specific calls for the implementation of school food programming were made. Participants thought that school nutritional programs could help alleviate food insecurity. As well, it was suggested that provision of meals in schools can help ensure that children eat a sufficient quantity of healthy food, a concern not limited to lower income groups. There were also calls for revised school lunch guidelines, including ensuring students have enough time to eat.
- Federal funding was provided in 2017 to the "Farm to Cafeteria Canada Program"

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

A federal investment would leverage efforts by grassroots organizations, charities, and provincial funding which would expand their impact and improve all children's health and education outcomes, lowering future healthcare costs while supporting farmers and local economies

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available).

- Alberta implemented a healthy eating policy, resulting in a significant increase in the consumption of fruits and veggies, students exhibited lower obesity rates compared to students elsewhere in the province (Fung et al., 2012).
- The Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba offered a Vegetable and Fruit Snack Program in 2008-2015 in schools across the province. This resulted in an increase of veggies and fruits, and positive impacts on student behavior and other indicators such as attendance and social interaction (Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, 2017).
- In Ontario, a multi-component school fruit and vegetable program for First Nations youth improved their exposure to, and preference for, a variety of vegetables and fruit and enhanced their nutrition knowledge (Gates et al., 2011).

3) PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info.

Costing done by Coalition for Healthy School Food

- 5,415,671 students x \$2 a day = \$1,892,671,395
- \$360 million would be a 20% share of that allowing the federal government to be involved in a cost shared program.
- This pricing may vary as provinces and cities may not be putting in their own 20% share, and many programs cost more than \$2 a day as the price of food has gone up.
- And the federal government would be 100% responsible for food programs in Indigenous communities.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed?

4) POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives

NDP

- 2011 platform committed to introducing a "Canada Food Strategy that will combine health goals, environment goals, and food quality objectives, and increase access to local and organic choices for consumers across the country"
- In 2014, released a document for their vision for a Pan-Canadian food strategy called "Everybody Eats"
 - **On SFP:** Ensure that every child has a healthy meal Work with industry and the provinces and territories to establish a Pan-Canadian School Nutrition Program, sourced locally as much as possible, with excellent nutritional standards.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| • Action Against Hungry | • Food Secure Canada | • Ontario Edible Education Network |
| • Alberta Food Matters | • FoodFirst Foundation | • Ontario Home Economics Association |
| • BC Food Systems Network | • Foodshare | • Pilot Project for Universal Lunches in Schools INC |
| • Canadian Feed The Children | • Fresh Roots | • Réseau Des Cafétérias Communautaires |
| • Canadian Medical Association | • Green Thumbs Growing Kids | • School Lunch Association |
| • Centre For Health Science and Law | • Heart and Stroke Foundation | • Share the Warmth |
| • CHEP Good Good Inc | • Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami | • Show Kids You Care |
| • Chiefs of Ontario | • Kids Eat Smart Foundation | • Summerlunch+ |
| • Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba | • Newfoundland and Labrador | • Sustain Ontario |
| • Collectif De La Table Des Écoliers | • McConnell Foundation | • Tastebuds Hamilton |
| • Conscious Eating Canada | • Muskoka North Good Food Co-Operative | • Unicef Canada |
| • Diabetes Canada | • Natoaganeg Community Food Centre | • Vancouver Food Policy Council |
| • Dietitians of Canada | • Nishnawbe Aski Nation | • VON Canada |
| • E4C | • Nourish Nova Scotia | |
| • Ecology Action Centre | • Nourishing Mind NB | |
| • Equiterre | • ONEXONE | |
| • Food for Thought | | |

Policy Proposal 15: Disability Insurance Program

Topic: research into disability insurance program

Theme: Social & Economic Development

Prepared by: Anita Vandenberg

Date: December 5th, 2018

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Persons with chronic disabilities are not well served in Canada. On top of being the poorest of the poor and most marginalized people in Canadian society, the support systems in place currently are simply not up to the task. A new system is called for – a universal disability insurance system that will reduce stratification, create greater opportunities and thus enable meaningful social cohesion and inclusion across this great social divide as witnessed by such a program in Australia. To that end a research program is proposed to examine the feasibility, viability and desirability of publicly funded national disability insurance program for Canada.

2. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Describe briefly, 1 sentence.

The problem is the failing and increasingly unmanageable disability supports system for persons with chronic disabilities in Canada which falls short of demand and misses the mark in terms of what is needed and effective. There is a need for research to better define the challenges and outline a model of disability insurance suited to Canadians needs and the Canadian context.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Briefly provide several important facts, with reference to key sources.

Currently the disability support systems in Canada (in any Province) are:

- Inadequate - many people with a disability lack the most basic essential devices, services and help with daily functions, and live in conditions that should not be acceptable in Canada today, best summarized by the phrase 'waiting lists' an estimated 15,000 in Ontario alone.¹
- A Lottery - some individuals with permanent disability receive high-quality services while others get nothing at all. In the words of the Ontario Auditor General "It is a crap shoot".
- Unequal - the level of support varies dramatically from area to area, and province to province, often depending on who you are: how articulate the family or individual seeking services are or how well-off they are. We do not accept this level of inequity in health care or education – why should we accept it in disability support?
- Inconsistent - people with identical conditions often obtain very different levels and kinds of supports. It is not about what is needed; it is about what is available;
- Unpredictable - neither carers nor individuals can be sure if support will continue to be available year-to-year and cannot plan their lives nor involvement in the labour force accordingly;
- Inefficient - an uncoordinated patchwork of systems, agencies and organizations results in overlapping layers of management and higher costs; and
- Inflexible - both over time and distance. Changing needs over time may not be addressed while relocation will often mean the loss of services, especially between provinces but even within them.

¹ This is the generally accepted number but the data – itself a significant issue – is most likely an underestimate due to discouragement.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? A renewed federal focus on disabilities was evident in the commitment to address accessibility issues with respect to areas under federal jurisdiction.

What have we done since? What impact has this had? Our commitments re: accessibility were fulfilled with the creation (currently before the Senate) of the Accessibility Act. Importantly this reasserted and re-legitimized federal involvement in disability issues. But it was at best a partial solution to the broader agenda of social inclusion and Canada's commitment under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This disability insurance plan addresses social inclusion in a comprehensive, effective and efficient way which has demonstrated economic benefits.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

The proposed research program would examine the dimensions and challenges of providing a comprehensive, lifelong approach to disability supports for persons with chronic disabilities where standards and expectation of services are assessed and validated based on an analysis of personal need, and provided throughout a person's lifetime. The outcomes would include: persons with chronic disabilities overcoming, to whatever degree enabled through supports, impediments to their full inclusion in society and, care givers being lifted from full responsibility so as to enable them to return to work. More broadly, improvements to the economy and social fabric would be palpable, resulting in improved economic growth and greater social cohesion and unity.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia which after 8 years of research and testing was fully launched in July of 2017. Review by the Productivity Commission of the Government of Australia in Oct. 2017 "suggest the scheme has resulted in simplified navigation for the disabled, better supports, and improved choice, while reducing the number of providers the government has to deal with directly"² This is not to mention the positive effects on economic growth and employment enabled by the program. A high-quality research effort at the inception roll out stages was essential to success.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? Include any relevant info.

In 2012, almost 14 % of the Canadian population aged 15 years or older—3.8 million individuals, one in nine persons—reported having a disability that limited their daily activities, while 28 % of Canadians provide care to family members or friends with long-term health conditions, disability needs or aging needs. Of the 3.8 million Canadians aged 15 years or older who reported a disability, 32 % were classified as having a mild disability, 20 % a moderate disability, 23 % or 840,000 a severe disability and 26 % or 980,000 a very severe disability. The prevalence of severity did not differ significantly between men and women with 1.82 million Canadians having a severe or very severe disability. Research on the insurance program would have as its target the 1.2 million with a severe to very severe disability.

² Productivity Commission, National Disability Insurance Scheme

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? This program's reach would touch on – and even absorb – other programs. To answer this question effectively requires research – the purpose of this policy initiative.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: The last Conservative Government had very little interest in this proposal, and on some levels was even hostile. This was not the case for some individual members however, some of whom saw this disability insurance program as a way of countering pressures that some feel emerged from the Assisted Dying Bill Legislation. However, given the traditional close links of the Conservatives to the disability community it would be very difficult for them to openly oppose this in principle. The issue will be the *HOW* – i.e. led by the private versus the public sector. This would need to be addressed in the research program.

NDP: The NDP representatives spoken to have all indicated strong support for this idea and certainly for the research.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to date?

Liberal MP's, including myself, have been working with the Every Canadian Counts Coalition which been the leading proponent of this agenda and has communicated and/or partnered with almost every significant disability organization in Canada all of whom, with a couple of exceptions, have endorsed this idea and especially support the research agenda.

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)?

A program and research effort of this nature knows no geography, age, gender, ethnicity or economic status by embracing all those things. Disabilities can affect anyone, anywhere, any time.

Policy Proposal 16: Standing Orders | Bardish Chagger

Topic: Standing Orders

Prepared by: Bardish Chagger

Theme: Modernizing Parliament

Date: December 6th

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Desire to have a more representative and inclusive House of Commons

The rules of the House of Commons are written by men for men. One hundred years ago, the House of Commons contained no women and only ever contained a handful of minority ethnic men. Much has changed over the last century yet the House remains unrepresentative and its working practices dated functions.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

This was not in the 2015 platform. However, the Government House Leader did put forward a Discussion Paper which included the subject in 2017. It was also part of the Government House Leader mandate letter.

ACTION	IMPACT
When possible, deferral of votes to after QP	Not as many late night votes
Tabling of House calendar prior to adjournment	MPs and staff are better able to plan schedules
Legislated parental leave option for MPs	More flexibility for new parents
Allowing infants in Chamber	More inclusive HoC
Expanded childcare services on Parliament plus change tables in washrooms, High chairs in cafeterias	HoC responsive to current needs of MPs
Updated travel policies	HoC responsive to family make up of MP families

Proposed new initiatives:

Currently the HoC sits 3 long days and two short days. If consideration was given to have more than one sitting day on long days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday), and Friday as a constituency day, the result would be more sitting days and more time in our respective constituencies.

With move to West Block and access to new technologies, consideration of an electronic voting pilot project for HoC votes.

Supporting factors:

- UK: Parliament tends to sit on 13 or 14 Fridays out of 36 sitting weeks (i.e., 38 per cent of Fridays).
- Provincial legislatures: Most legislatures have either the Monday or the Friday as a constituency day.
 - Nova Scotia sometimes sits five days a week.
- Among provinces and most international legislatures, Canada is unique in regularly sitting five days a week.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

338 Members of Parliaments would be affected. There would be no additional costs, monetarily speaking.

The toll would be of a different nature:

- Legislation – unless hours were reallocated, would result in fewer opportunities to speak
- Private Members' Business – Less PMBs or Private Members Motions would be debated and possibly adopted.
- Question Period - Unless additional questions were added on other days. would mean 36 less questions per week.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

Special interest groups such as Samara are encouraging such measures for a more representative and inclusive HoC

Policy Proposal 17: Online Hatred

Topic: Section 13 of Canadian Human Rights Act – Online Hatred

Theme: Human Rights

Prepared by: Arif Virani

Date: Wednesday December 7, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? The spread of hatred, intolerance and racism online. Online hatred leads to hate crimes and most recently violent attacks. The previous Harper Government repealed section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which permitted human rights complaints targeting online hatred.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Various human rights lawyers and groups indicate that s. 13 was an important tool to helping combat and prevent hate speech.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the legitimacy of human rights legislation that restricts hate speech in similar circumstances in Saskatchewan. An excerpt from the decision states, "Hate speech lays the groundwork for later, broader attacks on vulnerable groups that can range from discrimination, to ostracism, segregation, deportation, violence, and in the most extreme cases, to genocide."

The free speech controversy leading up to the events of the repeal of s. 13 was in response to what some had felt was a poor wording of the language in s.13 and previous attempts to reform it.

Events like the Quebec City Mosque shooting, the death of Colton Boushie in Saskatchewan and resulting invective directed towards indigenous persons culture, the Toronto Mayoral candidacy of Faith Goldy and her alleged connection to the arson attempt at a Toronto hotel housing migrants, the increase in anti-Semitism in Canada and rising hate crimes targeting Jews and the horrific Pittsburgh attack, which Canada is not immune to. The most recent statistic on Hate Crimes in Canada reveal that reported hate crimes in Canada rose by 47 percent last year, the highest number since comparable data first became available in 2009.

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? Not mentioned in 2015 Liberal platform
What have we done since? What impact has this had? We have executed a study of systemic racism in Canada, dedicated money towards multiculturalism and combating anti-black racism and commenced nationwide consultations on a revised Canada Action Plan Against Racism.

In the context of those consultations, stakeholders have raised the issues of restoring a modernized and improved version of s. 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

By restoring a modernized version of s. 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, we will work to curb the spread of hatred online and promote a vision of Canada that doesn't just tolerate our differences, but one that celebrates them.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available).

We know that almost every other democratic country in the world has strict regulations and controls on hate speech. The strength of s. 13 was its power to obtain cease-and-desist orders from the Canadian human rights tribunal and enforce them through the courts.

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? This would have a direct impact on all visible minorities in Canada, as well as all indigenous persons and religious minorities, particularly Jews and Muslims.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? Specific spending not identified – other than supports for the Canadian Human Rights Commission generally via Justice.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: Conservatives supported a repeal of s.13 via a Private Member's Bill from their own backbencher. It is probable they would oppose any attempt to reinsert s. 13 back into the Canadian Human Rights Act, on the basis that this impedes free speech. This argument is fallacious, as hatred actually undermines the values that free expression is founded on. In addition, the Conservative Party has spent a great deal of time cultivating the Jewish vote, and believe they have it monopolized. In fact, on this issue, the Jewish community is keen for a robust response to online hatred.

NDP: NDP opposed the repeal of s. 13 and it is likely that they would be supportive of a reform and reinsertion of s. 13. Moreover, Jagmeet Singh has campaigned for the NDP to implement a more robust response to racism. It is very likely that the NDP will promote some tool to curb online hatred in their 2019 platform. If the Liberal Party preempts this, it will communicate to Black, Indigenous, South Asian, Muslim and Jewish stakeholders that our progressive pedigree is bona fide and that we have the ability to implement a plan, as government, to target online hatred.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to date?

Irwin Cotler attempted to revive s. 13 through a Private Members Bill in 2015, Bill C-671; however, the bill never moved past first reading and died on the order paper with the election call. C-671 would have revised s. 13 in order to address the concerns of free speech advocates.

Policy Proposal 18:

Topic: Sugar Sweetened Beverages Levy
In support of a national healthy eating strategy

Sugar Sweetened Beverages Levy
Theme: Health & tracking obesity epidemic

Prepared by: MP Holland and Evan Wiseman

Date: 07/12/2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? We have a problem with sugar sweetened beverages being too readily available at too low a price in our society and it is massively contributing to the obesity epidemic.

What evidence substantiates this concern? Currently, Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) contribute between 10% and 15% of youth's caloric intake. Research from the University of Waterloo reveals that sugary drink consumption is projected to result in over 63,000 deaths and cost the healthcare system more than \$50 billion over the next 25 years.³

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? N/A

What have we done since? What impact has this had? The revised health standards in the new healthy eating guide will be useful for helping to guide families to more nutritious less sugary foods. However, the daily recommended amount of sugar far exceeds international guide lines established by the W.H.O. and gives the impression that high levels of sugar in SSBs is safe when that is not the case at all.

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

The initiative is simple. Place a levy on SSB to push consumers away from purchasing them, while using those funds raised to fund a national healthy eating strategy that would provide nutritious lunches to schools.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators?

Examples of successful implementation of sugary drink levies are found in Mexico, France, Hungary, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Chile, Barbados, and an expanding list of jurisdictions in the United States (i.e. Berkeley and Philadelphia) among others. In Mexico, purchases of taxed beverages have decreased over two consecutive years and purchases of healthy beverages are up.

³ Source: <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/canadians-projected-to-pay-a-steep-price-for-sugary-beverages> and <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/-/media/pdf-files/canada/position-statement/liquidcandy-factsheet-en.ashx?la=en&hash=E21D8E5A8708FD82915931DEC2C768361D130CC> and <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/will-a-sugary-drinks-levy-benefit-canadians>

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? It would have a national impact on anyone who buys SSB. Overall, a 20% SSB tax is estimated to postpone 7,874 deaths and avert 309,441 DALYs in Canada over 25 years. The direct health care savings from a 20% SSB tax are estimated at almost \$7.4 billion (\$7,350,664,242) across 25 years. Annual tax revenue is projected to be almost \$1.2 billion (\$1,185,903,122), assuming an average price of \$2.50 per litre. The 25-year total tax revenue is an estimated \$29.6 billion (\$29,647,578,056), not adjusting for secular trends in beverage consumption or changes in population demographics. The combined health care savings and revenue from a 20% SSB tax over this period would be \$36,998,242,299.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? None at the Federal level. For the healthy lunch aspect there is the "Lunch Lady" supported by different parts of the country as well as a "farm to cafeteria" program that sources local food into cafeterias. Both of these initiatives could be drawn on for the lunch aspect of this program.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP?

Conservatives: N/A

NDP: NDP government in BC has recently been somewhat unsupportive of the idea that is back by their coalition partners the Green Party of BC.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/green-party-promises-sugar-sweetened-drink-tax-1.4826965>

Green Party: In the past the Green Party has entertained adopting this proposal

<https://www.greenparty.ca/en/convention-2016/voting/resolutions/g16-p002>.

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage?

Many health organizations in Canada are calling for such a levy with the looming obesity epidemic on the horizon. As stated above, Heart and Stroke Canada is active on this file, but so is the Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention, Childhood Obesity Foundation, Obesity Canada, researchers at UofT and Waterloo, to name a few. Many of their quotes can be found below, but the existing literature in academia is significant including a report done with many of the above organizations also linked below:

- <https://www.diabetes.ca/getattachment/Newsroom/Latest-News/Will-a-sugary-drinks-levy-benefit-Canadians/The-Health-and-Economic-Impact-of-a-Sugary-Drinks-Tax.pdf.aspx>
- <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/will-a-sugary-drinks-levy-benefit-canadians>

Any other relevant considerations (regional, etc.)? Provincial Governments already do have some healthy programs named "lunch lady" programs underway in schools. <http://thelunchlady.ca/programs/>.

Policy Proposal 19: Toronto Ravine System

Topic: Toronto Ravine system

Theme: Infrastructure

Prepared by: Adam Vaughan

Date: November 27th, 2018

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

What is the problem / opportunity we're trying to solve? Toronto legendary ravine system is beginning to collapse as a critical part of the city's eco system its restoration is critical.

What evidence substantiates this concern? A series of city reports referenced in this article detail the crisis: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2018/11/07/how-torontos-ravines-have-become-critically-ill-and-how-they-can-be-saved.html> via @torontostar

2. APPROACH AND IMPACT

What did we say in the 2015 platform (if anything)? Nothing, but we did commit to protecting natural environments and designating more areas for protection

What have we done since? What impact has this had? There has been \$175m set aside in budget 2018 to support designation of the ecological important areas

Proposed new initiative: Describe in a couple sentences how the proposal would work, the outcome it would have, and how it addresses the main problem. This should be written in people-oriented language.

Toronto Caucus has learned that a significant private donor is coming forward with a large gift to the city to restore natural habitat and create environmentally sustainable trails in the ravine. The gift will impact the entire ravine system in the city and touches almost every riding. Extends to the 905 in many areas as well.

*Please note the donation has not and should not be made public until it is announced by local authorities.

Is there anything we know about similar ideas / initiatives from domestic or international comparators? Briefly describe (if info available). No

3. PRELIMINARY DATA AND COSTING

How many people would it affect? Estimated costs per year? It would impact all of Toronto. Uncertain it would have a financial impact. It could if we decided to contribute to the project, the max would be matching. That would set a limit at approx \$50m. There is no requirement to make it matching. Could be less.

Is there an existing spending program that this could be drawn from or repurposed? Yes the protected areas programme mentioned above.

4. POLITICAL CONTRAST AND STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

How does this contrast with the Conservatives and NDP? Include reference to existing policy, or leaders' statements where known.

Conservatives: No position. Likely wouldn't oppose based on their record on Rouge Park
NDP: Likely to support based on the position of NDP City Councillors

Who are the key stakeholders or external validators we might engage? What have they said about this to date? Evergreen Toronto, Park People Toronto, City of Toronto, Family Foundation that is making the donation
